counteracting the evil consequences which would follow, as the heat of summer raises on their mountains the moisture and the cloud to moderate its scorching influence.

Turn now to a different scene, to one of the closest lanes of a crowded city. So far from every man knowing his neighbour's character., there is scarcely any one who knows his neighbour's name. You meet here with none of those backbitings and jealousies which so fretted the other community; but we miss, too, that decorum which proceeds from a sense of character, and a fear of offence. The personal and family feuds have disappeared, but there have departed with them all the offices of kind and obliging neighbourhood; and we are among a population radically selfish, often malignant, and always disposed to lay hold on every criminal indulgence which does not insert its sting into them the instant they attempt to seize it. Here, too, however, we have a counteracting influence in the vigilant police, which can be easily provided by communities assembled in cities. Public opinion was the police in the rural district; and when the public became too extended, and its opinion too diffused to be effective at any one point, it found means, in its very extension, of arresting the evil which its extension occasioned.

The same kind of observation, carried out to other states of society, will detect similar counterbalancing agencies. The poor are dependent upon one another, and are in consequence kind and obliging. It is seldom that a sufferer in the lower grades of life is neglected by neighbours and relatives. A dozen sick-nurses are ready to proffer their services when a poor man is in severe distress, and are all the more likely to perform their offices in a kindly manner, from the circumstance that they look for no fee or reward. The richer portion of the community do not feel themselves to be so dependent on their neighbours and friends, and hence are not so kind in their offices ;

but then the sufferer does not require the same tokens of friendship and regard, for he can purchase for money what the other obtains from affection. The same remark applies to those countries which differ from each other in respect of the provision made by law for the support of the poor. When there is no legal provision, every poor man is disposed to sympathize with his neighbour, from a quickened perception of his own possible condition. On the introduction of poor-laws, these gentle offices are apt to cease,